

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): I fully appreciate the answer given, but my humble submission was, as far as possible the parties may not be made to go to the court; it will be more advisable for the Government to save these parties from litigation.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Advocate-General*): As far as possible.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): With reference to the answer that you are not paying in kind, but only paying in money, what is the rate for a para of paddy?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): The rate allowed by Government.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): May I know, whether the Government have any idea of the extent of the mundakan land by the side of this submerged area—the extent in acreage?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peshkar*): I cannot say definitely.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): May I know, whether it is not the rule that the market rate is to be paid?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): The present market rate is the controlled rate.

FOOD SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT—AMOUNT SPENT

92. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) what is the total amount spent in the Food Supply Department at the end of Karkadagam 1118;

(b) have the accounts of 1118 in the department been audited;

(c) what is the result of the audit?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*):

			Rs.
(a)	Advances		2,78,51,519
	Service head		1,67,789
	Total		2,80,19,308

(b) The audit of the accounts of 1118 is in progress.

(c) The results can be given only after the audit is complete.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): May I know whether any special staff for the audit has been appointed?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Yes, Sir.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): What is its strength?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Its strength consists of a Special Audit Officer, 6 auditors and one Peon.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): When was this audit started?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): It was started somewhere in Kumbham 1118.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): When this Department was first instituted was not the system of simultaneous audit applied to this Department also as in other Departments.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): What steps were taken to conduct a simultaneous audit?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): The rules were prescribed and necessary instructions were given and the audit of the offices of the Assistant Supply Officers was taken up and continued.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Then what is the difficulty of finishing the audit?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): That was explained during the budget speech and in fact we have completed a preliminary audit of 1118. That disclosed certain irregularities which had to be set right. These irregularities are being set right after which a final audit is to be done. That is what is now said to be in full progress.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Was not the audit going on from day to day and month to month.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): It is not a question of going on from day to day. There is the central audit in my Office. That is being done from month to month. In the case of the offices of the various Assistant Supply Officers, the Depots and the Central Office we take them up only periodically.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): What is the extent of the amount that has been budgetted for this Department.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): For 1120 it is about 5 crores.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): For 1118?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): It was 2 crores.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): When transactions of two crores 78 thousand and odd were going on which is almost equal to the revenue of the State, was it not considered necessary that this large volume of expenditure should be audited as and when transactions were going on.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): We took all necessary steps. The audit was also finished but that audit disclosed certain irregularities and we are setting them right. I may assure that earnest attempts are being made to set right these irregularities.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): What is the extent of the irregularities?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): I cannot disclose those things just now because we have to finish the final audit, obtain the remarks of the departmental head and the Government have to pass final orders on these. Before that it will be rather premature.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Will Government be pleased to give information as to what is the extent of the transactions and what is the result of the transactions?

Mr. President: Order, order. The Hon'ble Member has already been told that no information can be given until the audit is finally completed.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): I thought, Sir, that the audit was completed.

Mr. President: The audit is not finally completed.

Khan Sahib Ismail Haji Essa Sait (*Mattancheri*): How long will it take to complete the final audit?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): We hope that it will be possible to give the audited statement before the next session of this Council, (hear, hear). That is our earnest endeavour and our sincere desire.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait (*Mattancheri*): Are not the auditors approved by the Government?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): It is the audit staff of my Department.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait (*Mattancheri*): Is not that staff approved by the Government?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Yes. (Laughter).

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Why not the Government requisition the services of a commercial auditor?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): We have got also commercial auditors in our Departments.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Have you got one?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): In fact the Financial Adviser to the Food Supplies Director is a commercial Auditor returned from England and lent from my Department.

CLAIMS OF TEACHERS FOR PROMOTION—TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION EFFICIENCY OF TEACHERS

93. **Mr. M. Krishna Menon** (*Trichur-North*): Will Government be pleased to state whether in the matter of claims of teachers for higher grades their efficiency of teaching as evidenced by the results of examinations is taken into consideration?

Mr. P. Sankaran Nambiyar (*Director of Public Instruction*): Promotions of teachers are ordinarily ordered on the basis of seniority unless their work or conduct is found to be unsatisfactory.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon (*Trichur-North*): Can I take it that in the light of this answer seniority, mere seniority, and nothing but seniority is not the sole criterion in giving promotions.

Mr. P. Sankaran Nambiyar (*Director of Public Instruction*): It is not; mere seniority is not the sole criterion.

DEPARTMENTAL TESTS—CENTRES FOR

94. **Mr. M. Krishna Menon** (*Trichur-North*): Will Government be pleased to state the number of centres for holding Departmental Test Examinations?

Mr. P. Sankaran Nambiyar (*Director of Public Instruction*): One.